

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 8, 2002 LB 1101

ASSISTANT CLERK: With respect to LB 1101, it was introduced by Speaker Kristensen at the request of the Governor. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 15 of 2002 for the first time, referred to the Appropriations Committee. The committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments. (AM2562, Legislative Journal page 503.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on LB 1101.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. This bill, LB 1101, is an...is expedited because it's a deficit bill that needs your immediate concern and ours to debate. And so the body knows, LB 1101 has two issues in it. This bill, as presented, is amended so that it strikes Section 1, which has...Section 1 has to do with the Petroleum Fund, Petroleum Release Fund, and that is not in this bill. This bill only speaks to the transfer of the balance of the Landfill Closure Assistance Fund, which is a Cash Fund, to the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Fund...Waste Cash Fund within five days after the effective date of this act. The reason for the bill is that, because of the lawsuit we have in the low-level nuclear waste issue, that money is being spent quite rapidly and for our defense of the state of Nebraska. This trial comes up in either June or July, probably late June and into July. It will probably last for a period of six to seven weeks. It is a challenge by...against Nebraska for the procedure that we...what was used in eventually denying the license for low-level nuclear waste area and...lawsuit, and so to fund this it's been suggested that we use money from the Landfill Closure Assistance Fund, which has approximately \$4 million, it's just short of \$4 million in this fund, and to transfer it to the Low-Level Nuclear Waste...Radio...Radioactive Waste Fund for payment of our...of our bills. And, frankly, we were behind about a million dollars in the payment of our bills on this lawsuit as this moves forward in preparation for trial in June. Probably the first question many of you will ask is, is there additional...is this money needed in the Landfill Closure Fund? The answer to that is it is not needed at this point. We ceased putting money into this fund in 1997. All known needs for this money have been used and we do not have any need for this